

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 4, 5, 8, 10-20, 22 and 26 are withdrawn from consideration.

The present invention is related to a fiber produced from a composition comprising at least one hydrogenated block copolymer and at least one other polymer selected from the group consisting of a reactive tailored liquid polyurethane, an elastomeric or sulfonated ethylene/vinyl aromatic interpolpolymer, an elastomeric ethylene/C3-C20  $\alpha$ -olefin interpolpolymer, an C3-C20  $\alpha$ -olefin/conjugated diene interpolpolymer, an elastic polypropylene polymer, an enhanced polypropylene polymer, an elastomeric thermoplastic polyurethane, an elastic polyester, a partially hydrogenated block copolymer, an elastic polyamide, a hydroxyl functionalized polyether (or polyetheramine), a styrene/conjugated diene interpolpolymer, and an elastomeric metallocene-catalyzed synthetic polymer or a blend or formulated system thereof,

wherein the hydrogenated block copolymer is a substantially hydrogenated block copolymer characterized as having:

i) a weight ratio of conjugated diene monomer unit block to vinyl aromatic monomer unit block before hydrogenation of greater than or equal to 60:40;

ii) a weight average molecular weight (Mw) before hydrogenation of from about 30,000 to about 150,000, wherein each vinyl aromatic monomer unit block (a) has a weight average molecular weight, Mwa, of from about 5,000 to about 45,000 and each conjugated diene monomer unit block (b) has a weight average molecular weight, Mwb, of from about 12,000 to about 110,000; and

iii) a hydrogenation level such that each vinyl aromatic monomer unit block is hydrogenated to a level of greater than 90 percent and each conjugated diene monomer unit block is hydrogenated to a level of greater than 95 percent, as determined using UV-VIS spectrophotometry and proton NMR analysis.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 21 and 23-25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner objects to the terms 'vinyl aromatic unit', 'enhanced' and 'absorbent'. The terms 'vinyl aromatic unit' has been amended to read 'vinyl aromatic unit block' to be consistent with the terminology of the other claims and this term is additionally used on pg. 8, lines 3-4 and further defined on pg. 7, line 26 of the original specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The term 'enhanced' is defined on page 13, line 11 and the term 'absorbent' is defined on pg. 41, line 22 through pg. 42, line 25. Therefore, these terms are not indefinite and the rejection is obviated.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 21, 23-25 and 27 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bates et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to read only on fibers produced from compositions of hydrogenated block copolymers and at least one other polymer. It is noted that a previous election was made by applicant to a species wherein the fiber is made from a composition without containing an additional polymer. The undersigned would like to respectfully ask the Examiner for a shift in election under MPEP 819.01, and select a species of hydrogenated polymer in the presence of an additional polymer. Thus Claims 4, 5, 8, 10-20, 22 and 26 would be reinstated for consideration in view of amended Claim 1.

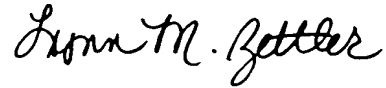
In view of amended Claim 1, the rejection over Bates has been obviated since Bates does not disclose any type of polymer combination with the hydrogenated polymers disclosed.

Claims 1-6, 7, 21, 23-25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hoeg et al.

Again, Claim 1 as now amended obviates this rejection since Hoeg does not teach or disclose fibers from any blend of hydrogenated block copolymer with at least one addition polymer as claimed in the present invention.

Therefore, in light of the previous amendments and remarks above,  
allowance of claims 1-26 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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